

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter for insertion into the human body and which includes one or more optionally scanning ultrasonic transducers as well as a surgical instrument to be operated from the outside, **wherein** the catheter comprises at least two parts ~~(2,3)~~ of a substantially completely circular or partially circular cross section, where a rod ~~(4)~~ is inserted between said parts and at the end is provided with an ultrasonic transducer ~~(7)~~, said completely or partially circular parts ~~(2,3)~~ being surrounded by an outer tube ~~(5)~~ passed over the completely or partially circular parts, and where the surface of at least one of the completely or partially circular parts ~~(2)~~ is provided with a longitudinal groove ~~(6)~~ for the insertion of the surgical instrument, wherein the completely or partially circular parts ~~(2,3)~~ removably engage each other and are kept together by said outer tube ~~(5)~~ when the catheter is assembled, wherein the partially circular parts ~~(2,3)~~ have abutting surfaces shaped so that they can be locked relative to one another, the completely or partially circular parts capable of being removed from the outer tube and disengaged from each other for sterilization/disinfecting purposes.

2. (Currently Amended) A catheter according to claim 1, **wherein** the surgical instrument is formed by a flexible needle ~~(12)~~ for the introduction of a substance or for the extraction of tissue samples.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A catheter according to claim 2, **wherein** the longitudinal groove ~~(6)~~ in the surface of one of the completely or partially circular parts ~~(2)~~ is shaped such that the flexible needle ~~(12)~~ extends immediately below the outer tube ~~(5)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A catheter according to claim 1, **wherein** the groove ~~(6)~~ in the surface of one of the completely or partially circular parts ~~(2)~~ ends in the surface of the circular part ~~(2)~~ immediately below the outer tube ~~(5)~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A catheter according to claim 1, **wherein** the rod ~~(4)~~ with the ultrasonic transducer ~~(7)~~ can be rotated relative to the completely or partially circular part(s) ~~(2, 3)~~.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A catheter for insertion into the human body and which includes one or more optionally scanning ultrasonic transducers as well as a surgical instrument to be operated from outside the human body, said catheter comprising:

a pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts, the substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts removably engaging each other;

a rod inserted between said substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts, an end of the rod provided with an ultrasonic transducer; and

an outer tube passing over and holding the substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts together, wherein a surface of at least one of the substantially completely or partially circular parts is provided with a longitudinal groove for insertion of the surgical instrument, the pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts capable of being removed from the outer tube and disengaged from each other for sterilization/disinfecting purposes.

10. (Previously Presented) A catheter according to claim 9, wherein the catheter is readily disassembled to remove the pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts from the outer tube and disengaging the pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts from each other for ease in disinfecting and/or sterilizing said catheter.